GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
INDO-IRAQ TIES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The outcome of the recent visit of Minister of State for External Affairsto Iraq in terms of strengthening bilateral ties including petroleum for foodgrain agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of India so far to support Iraq`s demand with regard to lifting of UN sponsored sanctions against that country ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a & b) The main focus of the visit of MOS(EA) to Iraq was to strengthen senior level political contacts and endeavour to increase India`s share under the oil for food programme. A 35 member Business delegation accompanied MOS(EA).Meetings with President Saddam Hussein, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadhan, Dr. Sadoun Hamadi, Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers for Trade, Oil, Transport, Health and Industry were held.

(c) India has called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq`s compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The Government of India has been consistently drawing the attention of the world community to the sufferings of the people of Iraq resulting from sanctions and continues to advocate a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues involved.